

# Collard & Roe, P.C.

1077 Northern Blvd  
Roslyn, NY 11576  
Ph. 516-365-9802  
Fax. 516-365-9805  
www.collardroe.com

## Fax

**To:** Examiner Nguyen

**From:** Elizabeth C. Richter

**Fax:** 571 270 8828

**Pages:** 10

**Phone:**

**Date:** 3.16.11

**Re:** USSN 10/551,945

**cc:**

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● **Comments:**

Dear Examiner Nguyen:

Attached please find the Interview Request form and a proposed Amendment. Please let me know when you would like to schedule the interview. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Elizabeth C. Richter  
Reg. No. 35,103

Doc Code: M865 or FAIREQ.INTV

PTOL-413A (08-10)  
Approved for use through 07/31/2012. OMB 0651-0031  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**Applicant Initiated Interview Request Form**

Application No.: 10/551,945 First Named Applicant: Marcus Schoerghuber  
 Examiner: H.D. Nguyen Art Unit: 3742 Status of Application: pending

**Tentative Participants:**

(1) Elizabeth C. Richter (2) Examiner Nguyen  
 (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Date of Interview: \_\_\_\_\_ Proposed Time: \_\_\_\_\_ (AM/PM)

**Type of Interview Requested:**

(1) ☒ Telephonic (2) ☐ Personal (3) ☐ Video Conference

Exhibit To Be Shown or Demonstrated: ☐ YES ☒ NO

If yes, provide brief description: \_\_\_\_\_

**Issues To Be Discussed**

Issues (Rej., Obj., etc)	Claims/ Fig. #s	Prior Art	Discussed	Agreed	Not Agreed
(1) <u>Rej.</u>	<u>1-5, 11-15, 17</u>	<u>Taylor, Ueyama, Jeannelle, Bryce</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(2) _____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(3) _____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(4) _____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

☐ Continuation Sheet Attached ☒ Proposed Amendment or Arguments Attached

**Brief Description of Arguments to be Presented:** The cited references do not show a wire guide hose having a helical structure and such that backward movement of the wire causes the extra wire and core to be stored within the free space inside the hose, which has a substantially larger cross section.

An interview was conducted on the above-identified application on \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** This form should be completed and filed by applicant in advance of the interview (see MPEP § 713.01). If this form is signed by a registered practitioner not of record, the Office will accept this as an indication that he or she is authorized to conduct an interview on behalf of the principal (37 CFR 1.32(a)(3)) pursuant to 37 CFR 1.34. This is not a power of attorney to any above named practitioner. See the Instruction Sheet for this form, which is incorporated by reference. By signing this form, applicant or practitioner is certifying that he or she has read the Instruction Sheet. After the interview is conducted, applicant is advised to file a statement of the substance of this interview (37 CFR 1.133(b)) as soon as possible. This application will not be delayed from issue because of applicant's failure to submit a written record of this interview.

  
 Applicant's Representative Signature

Elizabeth C. Richter

Typed/Printed Name of Applicant or Representative

35,103

Registration Number, if applicable

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Examiner/SPE Signature

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.133. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 24 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**Instruction Sheet for:**  
**APPLICANT INITIATED INTERVIEW REQUEST FORM**  
(Not to be Submitted to the USPTO)

1. If this form is signed by a registered practitioner not of record, the authority to submit the Applicant Initiated Interview Request Form is pursuant to limited authority to act in a representative capacity under 37 CFR 1.34 and further proof of authority to act in a representative capacity may be required. See 37 CFR 1.34.

The Office will accept the signed form as an indication that the registered practitioner not of record is authorized to conduct an interview on behalf of the principal in pursuant to 37 CFR 1.34.

For more information, see the "Conducting an Interview with a Registered Practitioner Acting in a Representative Capacity" notice which is available on the USPTO Web site at: <http://www.uspto.gov/patents/law/notices/2010.jsp>.

2. This is not a power of attorney to any named practitioner. Accordingly, any registered practitioner not of record named on the form does not have authority to sign a request to change the correspondence address, a request for express abandonment, a disclaimer, a power of attorney, or other document requiring the signature of the applicant, assignee of the entire interest or an attorney of record. If appropriate, a separate power of attorney to the named practitioner should be executed and filed in the US Patent and Trademark Office.
3. Any interview concerning an unpublished application under 35 U.S.C. § 122(b) with a registered practitioner not of record, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.34, will be conducted based on the information and files supplied by the practitioner in view of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 122(a).

## Privacy Act Statement

The **Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579)** requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

ProposedAmendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A buffer device for a welding wire, wherein a wire buffer storage is arranged between a wire feeder provided on the welding apparatus, or an external wire feeding means, and a further wire feeder arranged in the region of a welding torch, or within the welding torch, and the welding wire is conducted between the two wire feeders within a wire core, wherein the wire buffer storage (35) is designed in a manner that the wire core (30) is fastened or fixed on one end, with its other end being freely movable, wherein the wire core (30) together with the welding wire (13), at least over a partial region, is arranged to be freely movable within a wire guide hose (38) extending in a helix-shaped or spiral-shaped manner and having a substantially larger cross section (39) or inner diameter than the cross section or outer diameter (33) of the wire core (30) so that during backward conveyance of the welding wire, the welding wire together with the wire core is pushed backward into the wire guide hose and stored there without

displacing the welding wire within the wire core, wherein the storage volume of the wire buffer storage (35) is defined by the cross section (39) and length of the substantially larger wire guide hose (38), and wherein means for detecting the filling level or quantity of welding wire (13) of the wire buffer storage (35) are arranged, said detection means detecting the longitudinal movement of the wire core (30) and, in particular, the free end of the wire core (30).

Claim 2 (previously presented): A buffer device according to claim 1, wherein the wire core (30) is fastened or fixed in the region of the welding apparatus (1) or external wire feeding means (11).

Claim 3 (previously presented): A buffer device according to claim 1, wherein the inner diameter or cross section (39) of the wire guide hose (38) is at least 1.5 times larger than an outer diameter (33) of the wire core (30).

Claim 4 (previously presented): A buffer device according to claim 1, wherein the wire guide hose (38) is arranged within a hose package (23).

Claim 5 (previously presented): A buffer device according to claim 1, wherein the wire guide hose (38) extends within said hose package (23).

Claim 6 (previously presented): A buffer device according to claim 5, wherein lines are arranged within the hose package (23) in addition to the wire guide hose (38), said lines being arranged within the helically or spirally extending wire guide hose (38).

Claim 7 (previously presented): A buffer device according to claim 1, wherein the wire guide hose (38) is arranged outside a hose package (23).

Claim 8 (previously presented): A buffer device according to claim 7, wherein the wire guide hose (38) is arranged around the hose package (23).

Claim 9 (previously presented): A buffer device according to claim 7, wherein the wire guide hose (38) is arranged to extend about a carrier material independently of the hose package (23).

Claim 10 (canceled).

Claim 11 (previously presented): A buffer device according to claim 1, wherein the wire buffer storage (35) is comprised of a structural unit comprising the wire guide hose (38), on which a terminal element, particularly a quick lock (49, 50) is arranged on either end, and the wire core (30).

Claim 12 (previously presented): A buffer device according to claim 1, wherein the wire buffer storage (35) is exchangeable without requiring any tool.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A buffer device according to claim 11, wherein a guide element (57) of the terminal element, particularly quick lock (49, 50), projects into a sensor (51) for detecting the longitudinal movement of the wire core (30).

Claim 14 (previously presented): A buffer device according to claim 1, wherein the wire guide hose (38) is preformed in a helix-shaped or spiral-shaped manner.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A welding plant including



a welding apparatus, a hose package and a welding torch, wherein the hose package connects the welding torch with the welding apparatus, and a device designed as a wire buffer storage and arranged between two wire feeders, wherein said device or wire buffer storage (35) is formed in or around the hose package (23);

wherein the wire buffer storage (35) is designed in a manner that the wire core (30) is fastened or fixed on one end, with its other end being freely movable, wherein the wire core (30) together with the welding wire (13), at least over a partial region, is arranged to be freely movable within a wire guide hose (38) extending in a helix-shaped or spiral-shaped manner and having a substantially larger cross section (39) or inner diameter than the cross section or outer diameter (33) of the wire core (30) so that during backward conveyance of the welding wire, the welding wire together with the wire core is pushed backward into the wire guide hose and stored there without displacing the welding wire within the wire core, wherein the storage volume of the wire buffer storage (35) is defined by the cross section (39) and length of the substantially larger wire guide hose (38), and wherein means for detecting the filling level or quantity of welding wire (13) of the wire buffer storage (35) are arranged, said detection means detecting the longitudinal movement of the wire core (30) and, in particular, the free end of the wire core (30).

Claim 16 (canceled).

Claim 17 (previously presented): A welding plant including a welding apparatus, a hose package and a welding torch, wherein the hose package connects the welding torch with the welding apparatus, and a device designed as a wire buffer storage and arranged between two wire feeders, wherein said device or wire buffer storage (35) is formed in or around the hose package (23) and is designed according to claim 1.